

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 201467

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOL REPEAT OF QUITO 6174 TO SECSTATE INFO GUAYAQUIL BOGOTA CARACAS
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QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6174

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS; DEPT ALSO FOR USOAS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC, CU

SUBJ: THIRD COUNTRY ISSUES: THE ECUADOREAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS
CUBA

REF: TATE 192947

1. SUMMARY: THE "FREEDOM OF ACTION" RESOLUTION WHICH
RESULTED FROM THE SAN JOSE CONFERENCE WAS WIDELY (BUT
NOT APRTICULARLY LOUDLY) APPLAUDED IN ECUADOR. CUBA
SIMPLY HAS NOT BEEN A LIVE ISSUE HERE, AND THERE APPEARS
TO BE LITTLE PRESSURE ON THE GOE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS
WITH CUBA. END SUMMARY

2. UPON HIS RETURN FROM SAN JOSE, CUADOREAN FOREIGN
MINISTER LUCIO PAREDES WAS ASKED BY THE PRESS WHAT
COURSE ECUADOR WOULD TAKE WITH RESPECT TO RE-ESTABLISHING
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RELATIONS WITH CUBA. LUCIO PAREDES REPLIED THAT ECUADOR

WOULD "STUDY THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH CUBA AS IT BEARS ON ECUADOR'S HIGHEST INTERESTS." HE ADDED THAT ECUADOR'S POSITION HAD BEEN THAT THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA WERE UNJUSTIFIED IN VIEW OF "CURRENT GREAT POWER RELATIONSHIPS," BUT AVOIDED SPECULATING ON WHEN ECUADOR MIGHT MOVE TO RENEW ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH CUBA.

GEM ON AUGUST 15, ECUADOREAN PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ LARA, SPEAKING TO THE FIRST LATIN AMERICAN CONGRESS OF TEXTILE WORKERS, REMARKED, IN REPLY TO A QUESTION ABOUT WHEN ECUADOR WOULD RECOGNIZE CUBA, "ECUADOR WISHES TO HAVE FRIENDLY DIPLOMATIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT AND NON-INTERFERENCE IN EACH OTHER'S AFFAIRS."

4. COMMENT: APART FROM A HANDFUL OF STUDENT RADICALS, FOR WHOM "FIDEL" IS A STANDARD RALLYING CRY, AND THE THREE "COMMUNIST" PARTIES OF ECUADOR, THERE IS NO GREAT PUBLIC OR GOVERNMENT PRESSURE TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA. ALTHOUGH THE "FREEDOM OF ACTION" RESOLUTION WAS APPLAUDED AS THE "RIGHT" THING TO DO, THE GOE HAS BEEN CURIOUSLY AMBIVALENT ABOUT ITS OWN INTENTIONS, AND BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF PRESSURE TO RENEW RELATIONS, HAS BEEN ABLE TO USE THE CUBA ISSUE AS EVIDENCE OF ITS FEALTY TO THE HEMISPHERIC SYSTEM (BY NOT BREAKING RANKS TO RENEW RELATIONS IN THE ABSENCE OF THE LEGAL PROCEDURE FREEING EACH STATE TO DO AS IT WISHED) AS WELL AS TO FOLLOW A US LEAD WITHOUT VIOLATING WHAT SOME MIGHT HAVE CALLED ECUADOR'S SELF-INTEREST. IN FACT, SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE, ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION, IMPLIED THAT ECUADOR WOULD BE WATCHING (AND BE GUIDED BY) ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE US AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH CUBA. BREWSTER
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